Translation!

Report No. 15

Sep 6, 1960

Approx. at 13.00 hrs I went again to this Hotel on Vicolo del Conte 2. I had the assignment to try to contact the Latvian tourist PETERSONS. At the information office I found I found the same porter as the day before and told him, that I would like to see the tourist P. from Latvia. One woman was sitting at the same desk. The porter addressed her in Italian. I understood, that they spoke about my request to see that P. That woman addressed me in Russian, inquiring, whom I would like to see. I replied in Russian, too, and told her whom I would like to meet. She started asking me various questions, what I did not like. Her questions were: am I a resident of Rome? I said, that I came from West Germany. However, she remark(! "You are a Russian, not a German". My answer was: I am not a Russian, and I am not a German, I am a Latvian from Latvia. She did not want to believe that. How I happen to know this P.? I replied, that I got his name from one of my acquaintances in Rome, that I am not acquainted with him, but only know, that he is staying in this hotel. This acquaintance of mine had mentioned more Latvian names to me, but it was easier to remember the name PETERSONS, because this name is so common in Latvia like Ivanovich in Russia. This woman was of an average height, approx. 30 years old, blonde, slim. I asked her, if he was in the hotel right now, because I would like to meet him and to learn something about the town Jelgava, where I was born. I heard that Jelgava had suffered much during the war and I would like to know how it looks like there now. She asked me to wait a moment, she would see whether he was there. She went to another room. More people came into the reception room during our conversation with her. There was a young girl with an elderly man. I had seen this elderly man already yesterday, when he was speaking with another Russian about their sportsmen. This elderly man was tall, slim, had grey hair, rather bald-pated. He was approx. 50 years old. I asked this young girl (approx. 20 years old, blonde, not tall)

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may be she was also a sportsman, but the elderly man answered instead of her, saying: she is a sportsman, but only in winter. I started a conversation with this elderly man about the Olympic Games, about their victories, how many medals they had won. As to the latter question he remarked: "Many, it is hard to count them all". I asked him where he was from. The answer: from Moscow. I re marked smiling that everybody, who comes from Russia, when asked where he is from, answers that he is from Moscow. As though there were no other towns from which people could come here. I asked him how Russia looks like now. He said, that everything is very nice, that everything, what has been damaged during the were, is being quickly reconstructed now. But, who saw that all? - I rasked a him. Come and see yourself, he said. I remarked that it is no good travelling there: you show the tourists only such places and things, what you want to show them. A tourist is not free in your country, you do not allow him to go there where he would like to go What then is the sense of travelling there? He did not say anything to this my remark. In the meantime the woman, who pretend having gone to check for P. . returned. She told men that he is not in the hotel now, that he had left with other tourists to attend the sporting events. I said good-by and departed. mission of a war of we have

This woman and also this elderly man were definitely "supervisors" or, in other words, officials, whose task it was to prevent by all-possible means their people meeting other people.

This woman was very unsympathetic. She watched me with suspicion, she looked like a real employee of NKVD. When I left the building.

Likew all the three busses parked as they were before. This shows, that she did not tell the truth, when she said, that P. had departed.

T walked through the gates. My bus was still not there. At that moment a man, who approached me from behind, addressed me in Russian. His description: athletic built, average height, brunet, approx. 30 years old. He was quite well and carefully dressed. I thought, that he wanted to talk to me alone, without any witnesses. He asked me where I am from. I said that from West Germany. He asked me, how

West Germany looks like now. Everything is all right, I said, even excellent, if one considers all the damages it had suffered during the war. The only bad thing is, I continued, that you have divided it in two parts. How would you like if Russia would be divided from Archangelsk to Odessa into two states? He retorted, that this does not depend on him, that this is a business concerning governments, and that he would prefer not to touch such a controversial subject.

He is a teacher of sports and gymnastics. He often accompanies Soviet sportsmen to various events inside the Soviet Union and also outside. He would like to meet me again, if he would happen to come to West Germany. He believes, that this might be the case even the next year. I said, that I would have no objection of meeting him, but that I would not know whether he will come at all, and if so, when. He told me, that he could write me about that and inform me about his coming, if I would be willing to remain in contact with him. I did not suspect anything wrong in that and agreed. He obtained from me that address of Michael L., which I was given still in Frankfurt. He wrote me his address, too: NUDMANOV HADZIM, ALMATA - ATA, GLAVPOTSHTAMT.

He asked me, if I had a photograph of mine, which I could give for him, so that he would be able to recognize me in Germany. I enswered, that I have none with me, but that we will be able to exchange photographs, when he will come to Germany.

I asked him whether he would have time and inclination to meet again still in Rome, so that we could talk more and in leisure. He answered that he would hardly have time for that, because he is departing from Rome soon. This conversation with him lasted some 10 minutes. My bus arrived and I departed.

N.B. There is no sense in visiting this hotel any more, we would not achieve anything. This woman, this elderly man and finally this young man - all they are "employees" of a special sort, supervisors, who have to watch over the tourists and the sportsmen. When I exchanged the addresses with this young man, I did not find any-

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thing suspicious in it at first. I had the possibility in mind, that he was interested in talking with me indeed, that eventually he wanted to say me something or pass something to me. Just later, when he asked for my photograph, I understood what was all about. It means, I made a mistake. Therefore, when I was back in town, it immediately contacted F. and told him about this incident.

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